

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 SP-02 SSC-01

/023 W

-----291858Z 057833 /45

R 291753Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7858
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 07471

DEPT: ALSO FOR S/PC DIRECTOR LAKE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, GW, PFOR
SUBJECT: KLAUS KINKEL, NEW PLANNING CHIEF IN FRG
FOREIGN OFFICE

REF: STATE 56826 (NOTAL)

1. KLAUS KINKEL, WHO WILL BECOME PLANNING CHIEF AT THE FRG FOREIGN OFFICE ON MAY 1, IS NEITHER A PLANNER NOR A LONG-TIME EXPERT ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

2. KINKEL IS A DOER. HE HAS MADE A ROCKET-LIKE CAREER TO THE TOP LEVELS OF THE GERMAN BUREAUCRACY BECAUSE OF HIS ABILITY TO ADMINISTRATE, TO GRASP POLITICAL REALITIES, AND TO HANDLE IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS. HIS EXPERIENCE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS COME DURING HIS THREE YEARS AS PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT TO FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER FROM CONFIDENTIAL

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1974 UNTIL NOW.

3. KINKEL FUNCTIONS AS GENSCHER'S LIAISON MAN WITH THE FOREIGN OFFICE STAFF ON ALL TOPICS OF SUBSTANCE. HE IS, THEREFORE, INTIMATELY ACQUAINTED WITH THE SUBSTANCE AND THE MECHANISM OF GERMAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. MORE IMPORTANT, HE IS INTIMATELY ACQUAINTED WITH THE IDEAS

AND THE PERSONALITY OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER HIMSELF.

4. KINKEL'S ASSIGNMENT TO BE CHIEF PLANNER IS INTENDED TO BRING THE PLANNING STAFF MORE INTO THE PRACTICAL WORLD OF GENSCHER'S POLITICAL REQUIREMENTS. KLAUS BLECH, WHO HAS BEEN PLANNING CHIEF AND WHO WILL NOW FOLLOW VAN WELL AS POLITICAL DIRECTOR FOR EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN AFFAIRS, DID NOT HAVE THE ACCESS TO GENSCHER NOR THE INCLINATION TO MAKE THE PLANNING STAFF AN INSTRUMENT OF THE MINISTER'S. HE WAS NOT ALWAYS HEARD. KINKEL WILL BE TRYING TO GIVE THE MINISTER THE CONCEPTS THAT HE WILL NEED IN ORDER TO MAKE GERMAN FOREIGN POLICY A VISIBLE ASSET TO THE SPD/FDP COALITION FOR THE THREE REMAINING YEARS (OR LESS) OF THIS GOVERNMENT, AND HE WILL PRESUMABLY GET ATTENTION.

5. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT KINKEL'S STAFF WILL BE BOOSTED BY THE ADDITION OF A FIRST-RATE CAREER FOREIGN AFFAIRS MAN (REPUTEDLY HAAS, NOW IN PARIS), IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THAT STAFF WITH SUBSTANTIVE COHESION AND COORDINATION BELOW KINKEL'S LEVEL. HOWEVER, SOME OF BLECH'S GOOD MEN WILL ALSO BE LEAVING. WE EXPECT THAT THE STAFF WILL SHAKE DOWN WITHIN A FEW MONTHS AND WOULD EXPECT KINKEL TO USE HIS INFLUENCE WITH GENSCHER TO GET GOOD REPLACEMENTS. KINKEL HIMSELF, OF COURSE, WILL FUNCTION PRINCIPALLY AS GENSCHER'S IDEA MAN AND AS A FUNNEL BETWEEN THE SUBSTANTIVE OFFICERS OF THE PLANNING STAFF AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER.

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6. KINKEL IS A MAN OF MANY TALENTS. HE IS A QUICK STUDY WITH A CAPACITY TO FOCUS IMMEDIATELY ON THE PRINCIPAL ELEMENTS OF AN ISSUE. THOUGH HE IS NOT AN EXPERT IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HE HAS ALWAYS REVEALED IN OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH HIM A KEEN UNDERSTANDING OF THE POLITICAL DYNAMICS AND THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF ANY INTERNATIONAL ISSUE. HE IS DEEPLY LOYAL TO GENSCHER AND IS ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE WHO CAN SPEAK FOR THE MINISTER AND, WHERE NECESSARY, TALK BACK TO HIM. IN SPITE OF HIS CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS PATRON GENSCHER, WE UNDERSTAND THAT KINKEL IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE FDP. GENSCHER'S RESPECT FOR KINKEL IS NOT BASED ON NARROW PARTY CONSIDERATIONS BUT ON ABILITY.

6. OUR RELATIONS WITH KINKEL HAVE BEEN EXCELLENT. HE HAS GONE OUT OF HIS WAY TO SUSTAIN CONTACTS WITH THE EMBASSY EVEN WHEN HE HAS BEEN UNDER GREAT PRESSURE. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE HE HAS DEALT WITH US FRANKLY AND OPENLY. THAT DOES NOT MEAN HE AGREES WITH ALL OUR

POSITIONS, BUT HE HAS CLEARLY TOLD US WHAT THE GERMANS

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ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 SP-02 SSC-01
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-----291859Z 058036 /45

R 291753Z APR 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7859
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
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ARE THINKING AND DOING.

7. KINKEL DOES NOT NOW SPEAK ENGLISH, ALTHOUGH HE CLAIMS TO BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND IT. HE IS WORKING ON A CRASH COURSE AND HOPES TO BE ABLE TO MANAGE WITHIN THE NEXT FOUR TO SIX MONTHS.

8. KINKEL IS REGARDED BY THE NEAR EASTERN DEPARTMENT IN THE FONOFF AS "ISRAEL'S MAN" IN THE FONOFF. HE TRAVELED TO ISRAEL SEVERAL YEARS AGO AND WAS REPORTEDLY IMPRESSED. SINCE THAT TRIP, THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IN BONN HAS USED KINKEL AS A CHANNEL TO GENSCHER. KINKEL HAS ALSO TAKEN OTHER ORIENTATION TRIPS TO BRIEF HIMSELF FOR HIS NEW RESPONSIBILITIES. FROM ONE OF THESE TRIPS, TO SOUTHERN AFRICA, HE EMERGED DEEPLY IMPRESSED WITH THE REQUIREMENT FOR MAJORITY RULE BUT ALSO CONVINCED THAT WE SHOULD NOT CONDEMN THE SOUTH AFRICAN WHITES TO CONFIDENTIAL

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THE POINT WHERE THEY LOSE ALL CAPACITY TO ACT RATIONALLY OR SERVE AS A VIABLE INTERLOCUTOR. INSTEAD, HE FAVORS TELLING THEM WHAT THE WEST REGARDS AS ESSENTIAL AND SUPPORTING THEM IF THEY ADOPT SUCH POLICIES AND POSITIONS. HE IS NOW WITH GENSCHER ON THE MINISTER'S SOUTH AND EAST ASIAN TRIP.

9. WE HAVE BEEN DELAYED IN OBTAINING A CURRICULUM VITAE, AND REGRET THAT THIS HAS HELD UP OUR RESPONSE TO THE DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST. HIS BIOGRAPHIC DATA ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. KLAUS KINKEL WAS BORN ON DECEMBER 17, 1936 IN METZINGEN, IN THE REUTLINGEN DISTRICT OF BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG. HE MADE HIS ABITUR IN 1956, AND HE STUDIED LAW IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS AT THE UNIVERSITIES OF TUEBINGEN, BONN AND COLOGNE. KINKEL TOOK HIS DOCTORATE OF LAWS IN 1964; HE PASSED HIS STATE LAW EXAMS IN 1961 AND 1965.

B. IN 1965 KINKEL ENTERED THE SENIOR CIVIL SERVICE OF THE INTERIOR MINISTRY. THERE HE HELD VARIOUS JOBS, INCLUDING POSITIONS IN THE PUBLIC SECURITY DIVISION AND THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL WORKING GROUP. HE BECAME STAFF AIDE TO HANS DIETRICH GENSCHER, THEN MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR, IN 1970. THE NEXT YEAR GENSCHER MADE HIM HIS CHEF DE CABINET. GENSCHER TOOK KINKEL ALONG WHEN HE MOVED OVER TO BECOME FOREIGN MINISTER IN 1974. HE MADE KINKEL DIRECTOR OF HIS PERSONAL COORDINATION STAFF ("LEITUNGSSTAB"). KINKEL ACQUIRED THE RANK OF "ROVING AMBASSADOR" IN 1976.

C. KINKEL IS MARRIED AND HAS SEVERAL CHILDREN.

D. KINKEL WILL ASSUME CONTROL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY PLANNING STAFF ON MAY 1, SUCCEEDING BLECH. HE WILL HOLD THE RANK OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY

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("MINISTERIALDIREKTOR"), EQUIVALENT TO THE AMBASSADORIAL TITLE HE NOW HAS.

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770150-0847
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2814410
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: PINT, PFOR, GE, (KINKEL, KLAUS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3c3fb2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009